

10: (see back)

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO
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FOR RELEASE Immediately

**ART FROM PUNJAB HILLS
FEATURED IN EXHIBITION
SENT FROM SMITHSONIAN**

An exhibition of eighty miniature paintings produced in India during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries will open September 25 in Gallery 26 of The Cleveland Museum of Art. The exhibition is being circulated by the Smithsonian Institution and is sponsored by His Excellency the Ambassador of India. After its Cleveland showing, first in the United States, the exhibition will travel to the John Herron Museum of Art, Indianapolis; the University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor; The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; The Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester; New Hampshire; and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. In Cleveland the exhibit closes November 3.

The works were selected by two well-known British authorities on Indian painting -- W. G. Archer, Keeper Emeritus, Indian Section, Victoria and Albert Museum, London and his wife Mildred who is in charge of work by British artists in India at the India Office Library, London. The exhibit's paintings come from the Archer collection which was assembled during numerous trips to India. It is one of the best private collections of Indian painting in the Western world. The Archers also have been instrumental in revolutionizing the history of Indian painting by isolating unknown styles and determining geographical areas and periods.

Both the exhibit and the Archer collection center primarily on the schools of Rajput painting executed in the Punjab foothills bordering the Western Himalayas. Here, the style is poetic and color is used as a means to emotional intensity. Shapes are simplified and cultivated. The various schools of the Punjab Hills, such as those of Basholi, Kangra and Garhwal, and those more rare or previously unknown such as Bilaspur, Jammu, Nurpur, Guler, Chamba, Kulu and Mandi will be on exhibit.

The exhibit also contains paintings representative of several distinct categories of miniatures produced for the Mughal emperors and their successors from 1556 through the 18th century. The Mughal style was considered the norm for Indian painting until this century when other regional styles were recognized.

Also on view are works in the courtly Deccani style, the vibrantly colored Central Indian and Rajasthani styles and the Company style, typical examples of which are being exhibited here for the first time. The Company style paintings depict everyday life and were commissioned by the British during the East India Company's rule.

Miniatures, painted most often in gouache on a prepared ground, have been the leading form of Indian painting since at least the 13th century when the country came under Persian influence. As in Western painting, they evolved from a book art to a self-contained picture bound within a frame or border. They were usually commissioned by princely or wealthy patrons and increased significantly in number after the rise of the Mughal Empire in 1526. Subject matter comes from at least three principal sources: sacred Hindu literature, the ruling class and the Gupta period's romantic poetry and plays which initiated Indian traditions concerning love.

An illustrated catalog by Mr. Archer with introduction by Dr. Sherman Lec, Director, The Cleveland Museum of Art, is available.